

JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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SEEN IN JOHNSTON

THE JOHNSTON CHAMBER LUNCHEON WAS HELD FEB. 27 AT JOHNSTON CITY HALL.



Ryan Edsen and Derek Trobaugh



Peter Moeller and Jackie Schmillen



Dillon McBee and Maddie Scott



Teresa Rotschafer and Paula Bierle



Mike Pogge-Weaver, Josh Laraby and John Brown



Heather Semelmacher, Mary Jane Stites and Nikki Roorda

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 45 | LOW 28
Sun with a few clouds



THURS. HIGH 59 | LOW 40
Mostly sunny and pleasant



FRI. HIGH 63 | LOW 43
Intervals of clouds and sun



SAT. HIGH 55 | LOW 38
Sunny and pleasant



SUN. HIGH 56 | LOW 41
Times of clouds and sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

THIS LITTLE PIGGY...

Chances are, regardless of what generation you are from, you had a piggy bank in your youth. Maybe you still do. I can still hear the noise from the coins dropping through the slot. For many of us, that was the sound of money.

The piggy bank of my youth was small, plastic and pink, and it had a local bank's logo imprinted on it. I took great pride in filling that thing up. I doubt it held 50 pennies, but I sure thought I was rich. My piggy bank had a plastic plug in the bottom of it that would allow for the coins to be removed.

My brother had a ceramic piggy bank that didn't have a plug in it. He would have to carefully fish out the coins through the slot with a butter knife. It was a tedious task. Of course, a hammer would have been the faster method, but that would have been the end of the piggy bank. Some say the expression "breaking the bank" comes from this action. Others disagree. Regardless, Mom would

not have allowed us kids to purposefully break things.

But what about the pig? Do you ever what it has to do with banking or saving? Why not a horse? Or a cow? Or a rooster?

Piggy banks apparently date back 600 years. This was a time before banks as we know today existed. In those days, people stored their money at home, often in jars made of a clay called pygg. When people would save their coins, they would do so by dropping them into one of these clay jars that were referred to as a "pygg pot." Makes sense now, huh?

According to The Financial Brand, the first true piggy banks — terracotta banks in the shape of a pig with a slot in the top for depositing coins — were made in Java in the 14th century. Not many of these Indonesian piggy



banks survive today, since, like my brother's bank, they needed to be cracked open to get to the coins. As such, unbroken Javanese piggy banks are rare. In Great Britain, a 650-year old Majapahit terracotta piggy bank was offered for sale at \$10,000. That's a lot of coin.

Today, in many German-speaking countries, giving piggy banks as gifts is a cherished custom, as pigs are associated with good fortune. Based on today's market prices, Iowa's hog farmers may disagree.

Did you have a piggy bank? Do you still? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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JOHNSTON
Living Weekly

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VETERANS MEAL TO BE SERVED

A Veterans Meal will be served April 6 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Camp Dodge Maintenance Armory, building 1350, 7105 N.W. 70th Ave., Johnston. A guest speaker will be featured. Menu is choice of spaghetti with meat sauce or Alfredo sauce, corn, garlic bread, relish tray and dessert. RSVP to Bre Sunken by March 29, breannah.suntken@ijag.org or 712-358-3009. ■

SPRING CLEANUP

The Johnston Spring Cleanup event will be Monday, April 15, for those living west of 86th Street and Tuesday, April 16, for those east of 86th Street. Place your items on the curb by 6 a.m., depending upon which date is your designated trash collection day.

The Spring Cleanup allows residents to dispose of large household items on their regular trash collection day at no additional charge. All smaller items must be placed in bags or boxes. The average Johnston household pays around \$6 per year (included in your monthly utility bill) for this event, so take advantage of it. If you live in an apartment, condo or townhome with private trash collection, you may not be a part of the Spring Cleanup event. Contact your association or management to find out.

For guidance on what items can go at the curb, visit www.WhereItShouldGo.com/springcleanup or call Metro Waste Authority at 515-244-0021. For more information, visit www.cityofjohnston.com/675/Spring-Cleanup. ■

KIWANIS CLUB OF JOHNSTON PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Kiwanis Club will hold a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 6, 7:30-11 a.m. at Johnston Middle School, 6501 N.W. 62nd Ave. Tickets for this all-you-can-eat pancakes event is \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. For tickets, email johnstonkiwanis@gmail.com. ■

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Johnston Community Greetings would like to welcome anyone new to Johnston with a welcome bag including discounts at local businesses and city information. Contact Missy Shepherd by phone, text or email at 515-991-5014 or mshpherdgreetings@gmail.com. ■

ANNUAL TREE SALE

Johnston's Annual Tree Sale starts on Tuesday, April 9, at 8 a.m. Trees can be purchased online, but remember to set up your account in advance to make the buying process smoother. Each tree costs \$75, and four varieties are available: cathedral elm, tulleo black gum, American larch and swamp white oak. For more information, visit <https://www.cityofjohnston.com/1436/Tree-Sale>. ■

LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 20, the Johnston Lions Club is hosting its annual Pancake Breakfast at the Johnston Middle School cafeteria, 6501 N.W. 62nd Ave. Hours are 7-11 a.m., and the breakfast features pancakes (including gluten-free pancakes), sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$8 at the door and kids 5 and younger are free. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club service projects. ■

THIS SPOT IS AVAILABLE.

Contact Andrea Hodapp at andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com

MEET THE FINALISTS FOR LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The public is invited on Thursday, April 11, to meet the top three candidates for the Johnston Public Library director position. The library board will be conducting interviews with each candidate and would like you to be a part of it. Candidate presentations are a half hour each and will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the West Meeting Room. After each presentation, you will have the opportunity to fill out a feedback form to share your thoughts on the candidates. Your insights will greatly influence the selection process, so the library board encourages you not to miss this chance to shape the future of the Johnston Public Library. ■

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society (JSHS) 2024 annual membership meeting and open house will be held on Wednesday, April 24, from 6-8 p.m. at the Simpson Barn in the Johnston Commons. Come and share in a potluck supper and see the local history artifacts in the 1936 Simpson Barn and the adjacent 1902 Simpson House Museum. Tours will be given, and drinks and the main dish will be served. You are encouraged to bring a dessert or a side dish. Plates and tableware will be provided. The Simpson House and Barn are in the Johnston Commons at 6161 Northglenn Drive, next to the Johnston Library. RSVP by leaving a message with JSHS at 515-608-5730 or e-mail johnstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to discovering, preserving and presenting the history of the Johnston area. Consider supporting the Society by becoming a member, a volunteer, a benefactor or donating Johnston-related historical items. ■

TREE BRANCH AND TIRE DROP OFF

Johnston residents can drop off branches, limbs and passenger vehicle tires at the Public Works Facility, 6400 N.W. Beaver Drive, at no cost on April 18-20. Hours are: Thursday, April 18, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, April 19, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Saturday, April 20, 8 a.m. to noon.

Participants must present ID for proof of residency. Branches cannot be larger than 18 inches in diameter. Only residential passenger and truck tires will be accepted. Each household will be allowed to deposit a maximum of five scrap tires (off rims).

The city will not accept scrap tires generated from any business, semi tires, farm or tractor tires, solid tires or tires containing hazardous materials. ■

CITY CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, March 27:** Tree Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 27:** Park Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, March 31:** Library closed for Easter
- **Monday, April 1:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, April 1:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. ■

KITE BUILDING WORKSHOP

The annual Kite Building Workshop will be Saturday, April 13, 2-4 p.m. at the Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road. Prepare for Kites on the Green and make a kite to fly during the festival. Veridian Credit Union sponsors the free kite kits. ■

STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 25-29. Johnston will participate in the Iowa Statewide Tornado Drill on Wednesday, March 27. The test will occur at 10 a.m. ■

MEADOWVIEW EASTER EGG HUNT

Meadowview of Johnston, 5555 Pioneer Parkway, invites kids 10 and younger to an Easter egg hunt in their courtyard at 10 a.m. on March 30. Orange juice, pastries and

KIWANIS CLUB OF JOHNSTON LUNCH MEETING

The Kiwanis Club will meet Tuesday, April 2, at 11:30 a.m. at Cozy Cafe. The speaker will be Blake Boldon, Franklin P Johnston Director of the Drake Relays. Entering his eighth year in this role, he also serves as a senior associate athletic director at Drake University. Under his leadership, the Drake Relays have become a cornerstone of the World Athletics Continental Tour in North America while also forging community partnerships with organizations like Adaptive Sports Iowa, Special Olympics Iowa and others. In 2023, Boldon was an event manager for Team USA at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary and the Men's Coach at the World Athletics Road Running Championships in Riga, Latvia. He also currently serves as the chair of the NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Committee, the chair of Men's Long Distance Running for USATF and on the board of directors for the Iowa Sports Foundation. In 2007, Boldon became the third Iowa native to break the 4:00 barrier for the mile.

RSVP to Barb Allen, 515-577-2194 or bjallen713@gmail.com, if you plan to attend. Non-members are always welcome. Kiwanis of Johnston meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Cozy Café at 11:30 a.m. and on the second and third Tuesdays at the Simpson Barn at 7 a.m. ■

HOLY WEEK AT ST. MARY OF NAZARETH

The public is invited to Holy Week services at St. Mary of Nazareth, 4600 Meredith Drive, Des Moines.

- Holy Thursday Mass at 7 p.m.
- Holy Thursday Adoration 8-10 p.m.
- Good Friday Service at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Easter Vigil 8 p.m.
- Sunday, Easter Sunday Mass 9 a.m.
- Sunday, Easter Sunday Mass 11a a.m. ■



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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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IOWA TRAIL RUN SERIES (Photo courtesy of Iowa Trail Run Series)

IOWA TRAIL RUN SERIES

Several locations

iowatrailruns.com

April 6 and April 13

The Iowa Trail Run Series is back for 2024. Races in April, which include the first race of the season, will be at Center Trail Des Moines with a 4-mile and 8-mile race on April 6. They return to the beginning of the Iowa Trail Run Series with a 5K, 10K and half-marathon at the Sugar Bottom trail in Solon on April 13.

DRAKE RELAYS

Drake Stadium, 2719 Forest Ave., Des Moines

godrakebulldogs.com

April 24-27

The Drake Relays bring premier track and field athletes from around the country and some of the best in-state high school track athletes to Des Moines.

IOWA WILD

Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines

iowawild.com

April home games:

April 5 at 7 p.m. vs. Hershey Bears (Washington Capitals)

- April 6 at 6 p.m. vs. Hershey Bears
- April 9 at 7 p.m. vs. Rockford Icehogs (Chicago Blackhawks)
- April 17 at 7 p.m. vs. Grand Rapids Griffins (Detroit Red Wings)
- April 19 at 7 p.m. vs. Grand Rapids Griffins

IOWA BARNSTORMERS

Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines

theiowabarnstormers.com

April home game:

April 20 at 7:05 p.m. vs. Arizona Rattlers

DES MOINES BUCCANEERS

Buccaneer Arena, 7201 Hickman Road, Urbandale

bucshockey.com

April home games:

April 5 at 7 p.m. vs. Fargo Force

April 6 at 6 p.m. vs. Fargo Force

IOWA CUBS

Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines

iowacubs.com

April home games:

April 2 at 6:38 p.m. vs. Toledo (Detroit Tigers)

April 3 at 12:08 p.m.

April 4 at 6:38 p.m.

April 5 at 7:08 p.m.

April 6 at 3:08 p.m.

April 7 at 1:08 p.m.

April 16 at 6:38 p.m. vs. Louisville (Cincinnati Reds)

April 17 at 12:08 p.m.

April 18 at 12:08 p.m.

April 19 at 7:08 p.m.

April 20 at 3:08 p.m.

April 21 at 1:08 p.m.

April 30 at 6:38 p.m. vs. Omaha (Kansas City Royals) ■

RECIPE

EASY EASTER EATS

(Family Features) Even if Easter hosting duties fell on your plate this year and added one more thing to your holiday to-do list, that doesn't mean it has to be difficult. After all, Easter is a time meant for fun and fellowship with the food just one part of the celebration.

Building the menu around simple, one-pan dishes can keep the focus where it needs to be: spending time and creating memories with family and friends. These dishes call for short lists of ingredients, many of which you may already have in your pantry, and simple preparation to create a full spread perfect for sharing with loved ones. Plus, using only one pan makes cleanup a breeze, so you can get back to the festivities quickly. ■

BLUEBERRY CRUMBLE

Finish off your feast with an adaptable dessert like this blueberry crumble. Made using just five ingredients and ready in about an hour, you can swap the blueberry pie filling and yellow cake mix for any combination that suits your guests' tastes like apple pie filling with spice cake or cherry pie filling with chocolate cake; the sky's the limit when it comes to satisfying that sweet tooth.

Ingredients:

- 1 can blueberry pie filling
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 bag (4 ounces) chopped pecans
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1/4 cup oil
- whipped cream, for serving (optional)
- vanilla ice cream, for serving (optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Spread pie filling on bottom of 9-by-11-inch pan.



Sprinkle cake mix and pecans on top. Do not mix.

Drizzle melted butter and oil on top of cake mix and pecans. Do not mix. Lift pan and tilt from side to side until cake mix is completely covered in butter.

Bake 1 hour until golden brown and bubbly.

Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, if desired.

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MAYOR'S BIKE RIDE

Join Mayor Paula Dierenfeld for the annual Mayor's Bike Ride on Thursday, May 9, at Terra Park, 6400 Pioneer Parkway near Corteva. Mayor Dierenfeld will provide comments around 11:30 a.m., and the ride will take off shortly after. A free lunch will be provided for riders at the large shelter at Terra Park. Visit www.cityofjohnston.com/DocumentCenter/View/12699/2024-Mayors-Bike-Ride to view the map of the route. Stay tuned for more details. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. This week their main needs are bar soap, toothpaste, new socks and new underwear. They are also switching the clothing closet over to spring and summer clothing if people would like to start bringing those clothes to donate. Winter items, except winter coats, will not be accepted due to limited storage space.

Donations can be dropped off at 5870 Merle Hay Road, Suite C, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m., and on Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. Currently they pack 220 food bags each week to go home with students. They can use fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, granola bars, individual shelf-stable milk and individual peanut butter. ■

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR KITES ON THE GREEN

Volunteers are needed to help at Johnston Kites on the Green Saturday, May 4. The kite festival includes public kite flying, professional kite flyers demonstrations, kids kite building, music and more. Lots of help is needed to make this event successful, and multiple shifts are available. Among other things, volunteers may be asked to help kids/families build kites, assist at special activities, staff information or donation booths, etc. Johnston Kites on the Green is organized by the city of Johnston and the Johnston Public Library Foundation, which can receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Sign up for a volunteer spot at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/815951609/false#/invitation>. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED: Looking for a handyman or carpenter to tear an old fence down and rebuild in Van Meter. We have the material and have started work but would rather pay someone to do it. It is wood covered with chicken wire, attached to railroad ties. If interested please call 515-321-0301.

FOR SALE: Vertical cloth blind. Light gray color. 40" x 36" in like-new condition. Call 515-321-0301.

FOR SALE: 1981 Ford F100 Truck. Blue/white. Ran when I shut it off two years ago. For someone who wants to repair/restore. \$500 or make an offer to take it away. Call 515-238-3198.

FOR SALE: Nice bunk beds. Solid built. \$175. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

WANTED: Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-3343.

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS: Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

BICYCLES WANTED: Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-3343.

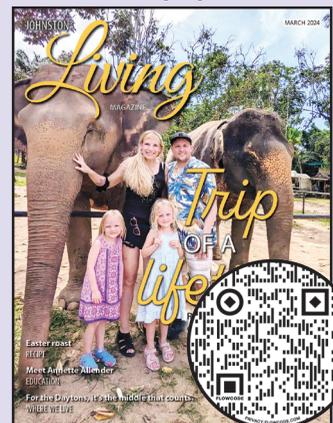
WANTED: Electronics, stereo receivers, guitar or amps, speakers, radios, etc. Any age or condition for parts or repair. Call 515-445-6023.

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